

Water is Life...and the quality of water determines the quality of life. ~ Vision Statement of the Lake Superior Binational Forum



Summer 2011

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** Celebrate **

In 2011, the Lake Superior Binational Program celebrates 20 years of work to protect & restore the lake's natural resources!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Lake Superior Binational Forum's *Water is Life* Newsletter.

The goal of this newsletter is to inform those who care about the world's largest freshwater lake with current information about issues and activities around the lake.

The Forum welcomes submissions of your photographs and articles about projects related to the Lake Superior basin. For example, the photo above was submitted by Jean, a Lake Superior Steward, from northern Wisconsin. This photo was taken during camping trip in Ontonagon Michigan. The *Water is Life* newsletter will be produced four times per year. The newsletter is funded by a [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) grant through the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#).

Please send your stories, photos, and announcements to: binationalforum@northland.edu and we will be happy to use them in future *Water is Life* newsletters.

This newsletter was sent to you because you have indicated support of Lake Superior, the Lake Superior Binational Forum, or other related lake issues. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, you may [SafeUnsubscribe](#).

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Become a Friend of Lake Superior!

The Lake Superior Binational Forum was founded in 1991, so to celebrate our first 20 years we recently launched a new friends of the lakes program called Lake Superior Stewards. We invite anyone who cares about the world's largest freshwater lake to pledge to do at least one thing to protect and restore the lake in the next year. This action can be as simple as turning the water off while brushing your teeth, or more robust such as replacing all hazardous household cleaners and chemicals with non-toxic alternatives.

You decide what action you want to take, then tell us about it. We have a quick and easy [registration form](#) on our website for friends to use to register. When you register, we will include you in our newsletter list, and we'll send you a free window cling that identifies you as someone who cares about the lake's natural environment.

We will also put your zip code on [our map](#) that shows where all of our stewards live. Currently we have Lake Superior Stewards in three countries!

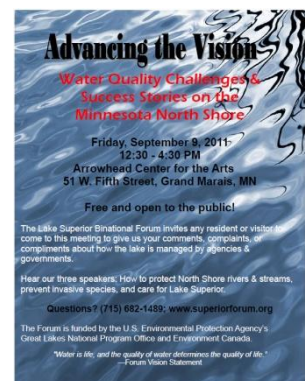
Please join us as we continue to inform lake users about issues and actions by becoming a Lake Superior Steward today!

Forum's Open Public Meeting in September

Four times a year the Forum meets in host communities around the lake. We offer an open public meeting during which specialists talk about important issues affecting the lake and the community, and we also offer time for the public to tell us what's important to them.

The final public Forum meeting scheduled for 2011 is on September 9 in Grand Marais, MN ~ [more info](#)

Please watch future newsletters for information about upcoming public meetings. We will also have links to speaker presentations, slideshows, audio clips, and short videos of public comments in our newsletter. Stay tuned!



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Award Recipients

2011 Environmental Stewardship Awards Program Recipients

Since 2004, the Lake Superior Binational Forum has given environmental stewardship awards to 69 individuals, groups, businesses, and communities for outstanding actions that protect or restore the lake's natural environment.

Members of the Lake Superior Binational Program's Superior Work Group and the Lake Superior Binational Forum reviewed nominations sent to us as part of this year's awards cycle. Nine winners in five categories -- including Youth, Adult Individual, Business, Municipality, or Organization -- were announced on Lake Superior Day in July.

Showing Outstanding Leadership by an Individual, Bob Krumenaker, superintendent of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Bayfield, Wisc., has been a progressive and enthusiastic national leader who moved climate change adaptation and mitigation concepts into public consciousness in the Great Lakes.

By recommending a bold new vision for the National Park Service, he championed the need to address climate change in national parks at a time when the idea was highly controversial. Bob led a NPS task force to develop and adopt regional climate change strategies in national public land and waters. Under his leadership, the group developed interpretive brochures on the impact of climate change on the Great Lakes as well as peer-reviewed reports and materials.

Closer to home, Bob led the Apostle Islands staff to aggressively redesign operating procedures and to retrofit vehicles and boats to reduce greenhouse gases. The Apostle Island National Lakeshore, recognized as the first "Climate Friendly Park" in the Great Lakes, has quickly become a leader in NPS climate change efforts through implementation of many sustainable initiatives.

You can read about each winner's accomplishments on the Forum website at www.superiorforum.org by clicking on our Outreach tab for descriptions and photographs. Recipients from 2010 are also listed there. The next award cycle runs from February 1 through April 15, 2012. All nomination information is posted on our website. If you or someone you know is doing great work for the lake or natural environment, submit a nomination!



Photograph by Linda & Larry Dunlap
of Summerfields Photography

Lake Superior Day is a Superior Success!

The largest lake in the world has its own day of recognition held annually on the third Sunday in July called [Lake Superior Day](#). Communities, businesses, industries, civic and community groups and clubs, churches, schools, and individuals or families all around the lake are invited to hold activities or events that celebrate

this world-class lake. The Binational Forum revived this day in 2004 to promote and highlight the personal, environmental, economic, and spiritual connections people have to this unique world treasure.

This summer, almost 50 groups, families, churches, businesses, and communities held [events and activities](#) that symbolized a connection to the Lake Superior basin.

For example, [elected](#) and tribal officials in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario signed [proclamations](#) that designated the third Sunday in July as Lake Superior Day. Other events included community festivals, beach clean ups, and special church services.

Funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) supported the printing and distribution of 300,000 copies of a fun and informational [paper placemat](#) for Lake Superior Day this year. The two-sided activity page contained puzzles, quizzes, and games on one side and information about aquatic invasive species, burn barrels, and becoming a Lake Superior Steward on the other. Over 150 businesses, churches, groups, and libraries offered copies to their customers or guests in three states and Ontario!

Marge Dufek, owner of Lakeshore Café in Ashland, Wisconsin, said "My customers loved doing the puzzles and reading the information while they waited for their food. We're more than happy to use them in our restaurant all summer to promote Lake Superior."

Thanks to our partners who helped design, print, and distribute the placemat:

Minnesota Sea Grant
Michigan Sea Grant
Lake Superior Magazine

GLRI funds will support the production of another paper placemat in 2012 to continue to inform lake users about priority issues.



Click logo for more information.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters: Stopping the Spread of Invasive Species

Summer is winding down and fewer boats are on the Big Lake and inland lakes, but it's always the right time to make sure your boat is free of aquatic invasive plants and animals when entering or leaving a water body. The number one way invasive species get spread from one lake or river to another is by hitching a ride on a boat, trailer, or personal water craft.

Lake Superior has been invaded by numerous plants and animals, many of which have snuck in the ballast waters of freighters or through boats that launch and pull out at boat ramps including the sea lamprey, quagga mussel, zebra mussel, purple loosestrife, and Eurasian Milfoil. For example, the sea lamprey is originally from the Baltic Sea, yet it entered the Great Lakes in the 1800s through manmade locks and shipping canals. Since the sea lamprey attaches itself to game and native fish and sucks blood and bodily fluids, it often kills its host. This has caused millions of dollars of losses to commercial fishing industries.

Before the sea lamprey's spread, the United States and Canada harvested about 15 million pounds of lake trout in the upper Great Lakes each year. By the early 1960s, the catch was only about 300,000 pounds. In Lake Superior, the catch dropped from an average of 4.5 million pounds to 368,000 pounds in 1961.



Click on photo for more information.

Follow these simple steps to reduce the chance that you move an invasive plant or animal from one lake to another:

Inspect boats, trailers and equipment when launching or removing water craft.

1. REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway)
 2. DRAIN all water from boats, motors, and all equipment.
 3. DON'T MOVE live fish away from a waterbody. Throw bait fish in the trash or leave on the ground away from the water.
 4. BUY minnows from a licensed bait dealer and use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.
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Top 12 Ways to Protect your Superior Lake

1. Create an energy efficient home by adding insulation, replacing windows, buying energy-efficient appliances.
2. Install water saving devices.
3. Never burn garbage.

[More ways to protect the lake...](#)

What is the Lake Superior Binational Program?

The Lake Superior Binational Program represents a partnership of federal, state, provincial, and First Nations/tribal governments working together with citizens to ensure the protection of the Lake Superior basin ecosystem.



What is the Lake Superior Binational Forum?

The Forum was created in 1991 when the Binational Program members recognized the importance of having a citizen stakeholder group to give input to agencies and governments about how to manage the lake.

The Forum is a citizen stakeholder group of 12 American and 12 Canadian volunteers who work together to provide input to governments about management efforts and to educate basin residents about ways to protect and restore the lake basin's natural resources.

The Forum has three main purposes:

1. Review the Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) and give input to governments about management strategies. The forum helped establish a strict schedule of point source chemical reductions over 20 years under [The Zero Discharge Demonstration Program](#).
2. Inform the public about LaMP goals and activities and conduct outreach campaigns to share information about priority issues.
3. To give the public (lake users) opportunities to have their comments and feedback heard and acted upon by governing agencies.

Each Forum member represents a different sector to ensure that a wide variety of perspectives are considered when making consensus-based decisions. Members are also selected based on where they live to ensure voices reflect input from all parts of the basin.

The Forum is funded in the U.S. by the Environmental Protection Agency/Great Lakes National Program Office and in Canada by Environment Canada. The U.S. Coordinator is located at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin; the Canadian Coordinator is located at EcoSuperior in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Meet the Lake Superior Binational Forum Members

Here is a list of [current Binational Forum members](#) and the sectors each represents.

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